a boost to the tourism industry and/or for the purpose of meeting genuine needs of the people to meet housing needs;

(b) whether the Tourism Ministry has taken any view in that matter for the consideration of the Government;

(c) the proposals and their details received, area-wise; and

(d) the details of the various proposal under examination and/or decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received proposals forwarded by the Ministry of Tourism for considering amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 for boosting tourism in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island.

(c) In the above proposals the Ministry of Tourism has endorsed the request made by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Lakshadweep Administration for reducing the No Development Zone (NDZ) to 50 metres and 5 metres from the High Tide Line respectively.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has already amended the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 *vide* S.O. 838 (E) dated 24.7.2003 reducing the No Development Zone to 50 metres in identified stretches of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for promoting tourism based on Integrated Coastal Zone Management study. The No Development Zone on Lakshadweep is decided depending on the size of the Island.

Uniformity in criterion to ascertain pollution level

†2950. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the work carried out, so far, after fixing the criteria to ascertain the air pollution and water pollution, and for fixing its level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the gap between the contaminated and treated water is widening as the legal accountability for providing clear potable water has not been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) For abatement of pollution, ambient and source specific environmental standards have been notified from time to time under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The industries are required to meet emission standards in respect of Suspended Particulate Matter, Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen as well as the industry specific standards. Similarly, in respect of water pollution, the effluent standards for industries as well as sewage treatment plants have been fixed indicating the mode of disposal.

(b) and (c) While gap exists between the waste water generated from domestic sewage and the facilities available for treatment of waste water, priority has been accorded for setting up sewage treatment plants for cities and towns located on the banks of the major rivers. The National River Conservation Plan at present covers pollution abatement works in 160 towns along polluted stretches of 34 rivers spread over 20 States with the objective of making the river water quality fit for bathing.

Carnivore Census

2951. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent three day carnivore census of the Ranthambore National Park has indicated a figure even lower than last year's corrected estimate of 26;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual number of tigers does not exceed more than 15; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save Ranthambore National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government of India conducts All India Estimation of Tigers once in every four years. Phase-I of the currently ongoing such estimation has been carried out in all tiger States including Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, using the refined methodology approved by the Tiger Task Force. Since the process has several other phases, which are required to be completed for arriving at the final figure, no indication of numbers is possible at this stage.